

Message Text

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12
ORIGIN AF-08

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COM/OIFI:RWSHAW (DRAFT)

----- 088216

R 190358Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LOME
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:BTIO, TO

SUBJECT:REQUEST FOR BIDS ON CONSTRUCTION OF 50 KM NEW
RAILROAD

REF: LOME 2040

1. FROM EMBASSY DESCRIPTION OF RAILROAD PROJECT, IT
WOULD APPEAR THAT FED IS FINANCING MAJOR PART OF PROJECT
THROUGH EC ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES UNDER
PROVISIONS OF LOME CONVENTION. TIEING OF PROCUREMENT
UNDER FED ASSISTANCE IS LONG STANDING PROCEDURE AND DOES
NOT DEVIATE FROM SIMILAR AID PRACTICE.

2. US IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN AFRICAN DEVELOP-
MENT BANK (AFDB) SINCE MEMBERSHIP RESTRICTED TO AFRICAN
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NATIONS. (US PLANS TO JOIN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND,

REPEAT FUND, WHICH IS NOT INVOLVED IN RAILWAY PROJECT.
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND IS AFFILIATE OF AFDB.) WHILE
BIDDING ON AFDB-FINANCED PROJECTS NORMALLY DONE BY
INTERNATIONAL TENDER, THERE IS NO OBSTACLE TO THEIR PAR-
TICIPATION IN JOINT FINANCING SCHEMES INVOLVING MORE
RESTRICTED PROCUREMENT. BANK'S PRESENT TIGHT FINANCIAL
SITUATION, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS ANY BANK INVOLVEMENT WILL BE
MINIMAL.

3. THUS, DEPT SEES NO GROUNDS FOR EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDED
INTERVENTION IN BRUSSELS. ROBINSON

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